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**For Immediate Release  
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## **First Snowstorm Fuels Concerns of Oil Dealers and Consumers Alike**

Augusta, Maine – The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly heating fuel survey on Monday, October 31, 2011 and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be **\$3.56 per gallon**, an increase of five cents over last week.

“Our weekly heating fuel survey was met with busy signals and long waits this morning, as oil and propane dealers around Maine were likely fielding many service calls after the first significant snowfall of the season,” said OEIS Director Ken Fletcher. “With winter fast approaching and demand increasing, fuel dealers and their customers are facing uncertainty in relation to the weather, the market and the unknown effect of both on energy costs in the months ahead. The best thing that Maine residents and business owners can do to get the jump on higher prices is to identify energy savings opportunities now and take steps to relieve the burdens ahead. Heating equipment maintenance, programmable thermostats and insulation and air sealing can have significant impacts on improving comfort and reducing energy bills.”

*As of October 31, 2011*

Heating Oil	Statewide	Southwest	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern
Average	3.56	3.50	3.59	3.64	3.46	3.69
High	3.84	3.65	3.70	3.84	3.55	3.75
Low	3.30	3.30	3.45	3.50	3.39	3.60
Kerosene	3.98	3.96	4.01	4.01	3.85	4.09
Propane	3.07					

It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$3.30 per gallon was found in the Southwest region. The highest price of \$3.84 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.98 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane ***based on a use of 925 gallons a year*** is \$3.07 per gallon. The table above provides current Maine cash prices in dollars rounded to the nearest penny. On October 31, the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined petroleum product prices, including heating oil was \$91.90.

Efficiency Maine links Maine homeowners and businesses with qualified, certified contractors who provide access to energy improvement options. For program details call 866-376-2463 or visit [www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com).